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IN Israel, water is not only life, it is land. Water has been taken to the Negev, and rich crops of vegetables and cotton and fodder have sprung up to support a new colony settled in a new place in the desert.

WATER TALKS

For Israel, the development of the Jordan water resources is not a political talking point but an essential pillar of a house that is already half-built. President Eisenhower's special envoy, Mr. Eric Johnston, has been commuting indefatigably in the service of his regional water scheme between the Arab capitals, and it is difficult to escape the impression that concessions have apparently been wrung from him at Israel's expense. The only proposed change that has been made public is that involving storage dams on the Syrian-Jordan border for the flood waters of the Yarmuk, instead of allowing these to flow into Lake Tiberias, as originally envisaged. This change will involve much additional and perhaps unnecessary expenditure, but it has the advantage of leaving the main Lake more free to store peak flood waters from the Jordan River, and these will be waters to which Jordan the State will have less claim than it would to waters derived from the Yarmuk.

Even though the particular circumstances of the Yarmuk treaty have not been a major stumbling block, it is significant that Jordan insists that no "political conclusions" should be drawn from her willingness to receive water from the river which runs through Israel territory, and that she remains as determinedly non-cooperative as ever. For Israel to give away a perceptible share of her water today would reduce her ability to make homes for the population as surely as would the yielding up of territory, and there can be no question of new concessions in this direction for the sake of the reluctant and uncertain progress towards peace of the Arab states. As originally planned, there was no doubt a sweep and vision in the United States plan for a generous development scheme that would be equally beneficial to the Arabs and Israel, and so pave the way for agreement; but if its essential provision for the resettlement of at least some of the Arab refugees in Arab countries is whittled down out of recognition, it will have lost all political significance, and will remain no more than a possibly useful water development scheme for each state separately.

Mr. Johnston has performed his task with a delicate touch — though he might have said at the outset that the Jordan waters were no business of Israel's — just as Great Britain has handled the Akaba situation — with silk gloves. There has been such excessive delicacy towards the Arab point of view that at both these points the interests of the Western Powers themselves have suffered, and not only those of Israel. Perhaps it is time now to re-evaluate these problems on their own merits, to study the terms of Armistice agreements, and international law on the use of waterways and the division of river waters and to re-establish a standard of what is acceptable in law rather than to carry on interminable and fruitless negotiations with unwilling Arab states. If there is to be no regard for law and legal rights in this part of the world, we shall be back to the jungle, and, despite Col. Nasser's threats, Israel is no longer alone in hoping that this will not happen.

JAPANESE TRADERS TO CHINA, RUSSIA
TOKYO, Sunday (UP). — While a group of 25 Japanese industrialists and businessmen arrived in Peking yesterday for trade talks, six others left here for Russia.
The team in Peking is the advance guard of a total of 60 businessmen who are out to persuade China to increase her exports from Japan. These Japanese will be joined in Peking by five others. They have been invited to Moscow to discuss technical problems of Russo-Japanese trade.

Latin American Round-Up Brazilian Elections

By J. BALCON FERGUSON
LONDON, (OPNS).

BRAZIL. Elections next month. They will be the first to be held since President Getulio Vargas committed suicide last year, and was succeeded by his Vice-President, Dr. Jose Calisto Filho, whose caretaker Government supported unobtrusively by the military and watchful chiefs of the armed forces, has the creditable record of having kept the country from chaos since Vargas' death.

Brazil occupies a very special place in Latin America, culturally, politically, linguistically and economically. This linguistic difference makes of Brazil an Iberian as the Spanish of Brazil's neighbours, but it makes a barrier, and there are big gaps between the more Latin American countries except Chile and Ecuador, and it is not easy to communicate with Uruguay, and highway links, in any real sense, are lacking. Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela and the Guianas, its frontiers consist of Amazonian jungle, the mountains, and inaccessible plains, or upland states.

It is the largest country in South America, as Russia is the largest country in Europe, but it is almost a stranger to the countries on the continent. Its size with the mother country, Portugal, are in some ways still stronger than those with its fellow Republics. Brazil's import wine from Portugal, not Chile, they read Portuguese books, not Spanish, American, and Brazil alone, I believe, among Latin American nations, supports Portugal against India on the dispute over Goa.

Not Latin-American

Brazil is, in fact, not a Latin American nation, any more than is Mexico. It is not even Indo-American, as some Peruvians like to describe their continent, but very accurately, since Peruvian Indians are still largely in the situation of unassimilated "natives." Brazil is not, finally, a transplanted colony of Western Europe like Argentina or Chile (whose autochthonous Araucanian inhabitants live on the fringes of the Indians of North America).

Brazil is polyglot, multi-racial. In the southern State of Rio Grande do Sul, where Vargas came from, thousands of inhabitants are blonde and blue-eyed, and speak German at home, and there are even Negroes I have met to whom German (with a noticeable Bavarian accent) is a first language. Further north there are whole districts which seem to have been transported from Poland, from where many of the people originally came. In Sao Paulo, both rich and poor, the population of Brazil's States, with its huge coffee plantations, its industries, skyscrapers and electrified railways, is a mixture of Portuguese, Italian, German, British, French and every other kind of origin. The population of Brazil is concentrated largely in the

area known as the "bolsa" of Brazil, which juts out towards Africa. It is the largest Negro population, both in numbers and in ratio, in South America. Its members have contributed much to Brazilian culture, folklore, and way of living.

But there are, besides these, strong regional differences in Brazil, where State rights have a force and an importance far greater than in the post-war United States. Brazil is a genuine Federal Republic — a Federation of Sovereign States — in a way that no other Latin American country is.

"New State" Strong

Of the Brazilian States, Sao Paulo, with its population of nine million, and of a national total of 60m. (and growing rapidly), its wealth, its confidence, and its pioneering tradition, of the flag, is not only economically but also electorally, by far the most important. From Sao Paulo came the revolution which made Vargas a dictator in 1930. From Sao Paulo comes also one of the Presidential candidates for the next election, Senhor Adhemar de Barros, an ex-Governor of the State and one of the few members of Vargas' former party to challenge him in power and influence in the days of the "Estado Novo," the New State.

Adhemar de Barros has something in him of the late Huey Long, dictatorial Governor of Louisiana, U.S.A., and something of the former Tammany Hall bosses of New York City. He is reputed to have condemned the illegal Brazilian version of the "numbers" game, the carriers of which flourished almost openly in Sao Paulo, due to a personal interest in the proceeds.

Possibly the next most important State of the Union is potentially rich Minas Geraes, whose name (General Mines) shows the nature of some of its potential riches. The Presidential candidate from there is also a former Governor, Senhor Juscelino Kubitschek. He has been nominated by the Social Democratic Party, which is headed by a son-in-law of the late President Vargas, and he is supported by the Labour Party, which is headed by a son-in-law of the late President Vargas.

The role of the Army in Brazil has been a remarkable one. It is not only the most powerful of the South American countries where the intervention of the armed forces has deposed a dictator and established democracy, and has preserved that democracy when it could easily have imposed a military dictatorship of its own.

Readers' Letters

DOCTORS' STRIKE

Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — It is a very sad state of affairs when in a cultured State like ours men of learning, who are round by oath to heal the sick and ease the suffering of all mankind, can resort to strikes or deliberate go-slow methods in order to press for more money. Is it for money alone that these men and women study medicine? Or is it the human desire to help the sick? No one desiring a career which promises capital profits would spend the best years of his life studying and interning until the age of 30.

The damage caused by our physicians in pressing their demands cannot be assessed in money as can any other strike. This damage is done to human bodies which need medicines, X-rays, operations, treatment. No one is entitled to tell a patient to wait for treatment or an operation until the personal grievances of the doctors are settled.

Yours, etc.
ARTHUR M. LIPSHITZ
Kfar Ata, September 7.

CHURCHILL AMBULANCE

Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — In your issue of August 21, you quote Mr. E. J. Treasurer of the Technion Society of Great Britain, as saying that Sir Winston Churchill gave permission to no other effort for or in Israel in connection with his 80th birthday. On a more moderate scale, the Glasgow B'nai B'rith and Jewish community recently obtained permission to give an ambulance through Magen David Adom to mark Sir Winston's birthday.

The ambulance was dedicated in Glasgow in the presence of the Lord Provost and many civic and communal dignitaries and was one of 40 ambulances to take part in the parade in Tel Aviv on August 5.

Yours, etc. JACK SHAPIRO
London, Sept. 4.

HEBREW INSTRUCTION

Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — With reference to your article in today's Jerusalem Post concerning the new school

The Uniqueness of Nazareth

By HARRY ARVAY

NAZARETH for the visitor and tourist is, of course, not an ordinary town like any other. It usually comes here with certain preconceived ideas, expecting to find an ancient, holy town, a restful city for recluses — priests, nuns and monks, an atmosphere of unchanged biblical charm; the chant of Psalms and the chiming of church bells; the twitter of a myriad birds. He may also be in quest of oriental peculiarities — Arabs with Keffiyehs leading heavily burdened caravans of camels; colorful smells, sounds, flavours. And Nazareth will not disappoint him, for all he seeks is here.

To begin with, if he is a lone traveler, attempting to find his way here without the aid of tourist agencies, he is liable to run into trouble in Haifa trying to find a bus. Three bus companies (two Arab and one Jewish) compete on the route to Nazareth but, like myself, he may do a good deal of straying (luggage in hand) in lower Haifa before he discovers the whereabouts of a bus-stop bearing the name of his destination.

Arriving at Nazareth after the slow journey, he may be lucky to get a room in the town's much-maligned Galilee Hotel under new management. Considering that it is the only hotel in the Nazareth Sub-District, and its reasonable prices, it offers visitors a fair deal, though it is not in the luxury class.

May Sleep in Corridor

A French, Italian, Austrian or English pilgrim can get accommodation at his hospice. All of course, recommending that he has not been preceded that day by a mere few hundred tourists, in which event, a corridor floor will have to do. To refresh himself, I should advise him to visit the barber, where a shave includes a trim, hair styling, face massage and plenty of cream, powder, aftershave, etc. He will also use a special soft face brush the like of which I have not seen anywhere else in the Holy Land.

To dispel premature drowsiness, I recommend a cup of Turkish coffee at one of the numerous cafes. There is no language problem here. Citizens of average education speak at least three tongues reasonably well, and if we take them collectively they actually speak to one another in a mixture of Arabic, English, French, Italian, German and some even Mission School Russian.

Since sightseeing must be confined to the daytime, the visitor may wish to go to the little cinema in the evening. There he will find good films, excellent sound, and new recorded music beginning half an hour before each show.

Up early in the morning to enjoy the fresh mountain air deliciously scented with pines planted in convent and monastery gardens, and with the foretells on the hills in whose semi-circular embrace the town is



The market and the Greek Orthodox Church in Nazareth. Photo by Braun

cradled, the curious ramble along the highway may feel dismayed at the high walls that line it. They enclose the Convent of the strict order of the Clarisse Sisters. The visitor may enter the garden and the reception where two or three nuns will give him information. Here, as in the Carmelite Convent, he may not look upon the other nuns but only listen to their hymns which sweetly strains float out from behind large barred windows. The only outsider permitted is the doctor, called in case of emergency.

The Sisters will tell you the story of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary to the Holy Land as a pilgrimage about 20 years ago and remained here, in Nazareth, as a nun. After some years, he returned to France, where he took orders. He was later ordained a priest and became a Catholic missionary in the Holy Land.

But most convents are not closed to the outer world. The Sisters of Mercy tend the sick in the French Hospital; the Sisters of St. Joseph run schools; the White Franciscan Sisters have a charming kindergarten; the Salesian Sisters teach young girls embroidery, painting and other handicrafts; the Sisters of Our Lady of Nazareth, near the Church of the Annunciation, which claims to stand on the foundations of the Holy Family's home, (the Church of St. Joseph makes the same claim) operates an elementary and secondary school for 500 girls, and the Franciscan Sisters of Egypt run a similar school of almost the same size.

The most famous religious place in Nazareth, of course, is the Church of St. Joseph, a part of the Terra Sancta College and Monastery of Franciscan Monks, on the grounds of which the new, 72-metre-high spired Church of the Annunciation is being built at a cost of \$500,000. The grove where Mary is said to have received the annunciation of Jesus' birth. The Church of St. Joseph also stands above a grotto, a cave and a well, to which we may descend to view the site of Joseph's carpentry workshop. In the Monastery, 700 boys are receiving a complete course of education.

In my opinion, there are few churches anywhere whose austere beauty surpasses that of the cool Basilica of Jesus the Adolescent, from whose terrace a grand view of the entire town reveals the middle-aged for his half-hour climb up the mountain. Its interior pillars of white marble reach high up to the domed roof, lending the building an air of stately splendour. The Basilica was begun by General Leonis Foschi before World War One, and was completed after his death by his devout wife. Each sleep in stately tombs within the building. The Fathers at present operate a boarding school for 100 orphan boys.

Dwellers, built above Mary's Well, stands the Church of the Archangel Gabriel, whose quiet interior decoration in the Russian (Greek) Orthodox style is highly interesting. The newest church, built only four years ago by the Coptic, has impressive twin towers and a cupola. There is also a Baptist Church whose pastors run a educational missionary school for 80 youngsters. The Anglican church is small and supervised by a Jesuit priest and his wife.

One might take a look at the Greek Catholic Church standing near the ancient Jewish synagogue where Jesus preached his early sermons. Its ruins were rebuilt by the Byzantines in the sixth century and the walls are still clearly visible. At the end of the 11th century, the Saracens destroyed the synagogue — a fate shared by the Churches of the Annunciation and St. Joseph — but in the 12th century the Crusaders reconstructed it and thereafter it was used as a church.

Our sightseeing tour must also lead us past the Monastery of Saint Joan of God (and Austrian Hospice) next to the Military Cemetery for the soldiers of World War I. Here is the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, beneath an attractive bronze monument. All around are pines and cypresses — a pleasant resting place no man could wish for.

Friday's Press Balance Sheet for 5715

THE eve of the New Year brings a variety of views on about the significance of the season and of its meaning to Israel and the Jews abroad. While a few papers make no editorial comment, these expressing their views through leaders dwell for the most part on the year's balance sheet, noting with satisfaction the turning point in international affairs and the prospects for peace. On the other hand, they stress that the exact opposite has taken place in our region. There are overt and covert references to the state of affairs at home, marshalling the positive and negative aspects of Israel's reality in religion, economics, politics, security, immigration and construction. All papers end on the optimistic note that the new year will bring a favourable change and that the State will be permitted to flourish unhindered.

"Ha'aretz" (non-party) analyses the various aspects of the New Year prayers and the attitude of the Jew to religious affairs in the 20th century. It is a mistake to think that the Jews abroad are the ones destined to fulfil the Jewish Mission to the nations, placed as they are on an island surrounded by other religions and constituting a minority among the other peoples. But can this mission be carried out in a Jewish State moving away from Jewish thought? The problem of religion in Israel is deeper and more serious than in the Diaspora. The Jewish mission to all those created thus. The Jewish mission will be realized in the Yishuv not by the Jews in the Diaspora. But this guarantee is not enough and the real question is: Are we ready to fulfil it?

"Davar" (Hiladstrut) too sees the coming year in optimistic colours and expresses the hope that the State will be able to proceed with its progressive activities without hindrance, while "Kol Ha'am" (Communist) records a remarkable advance in its party's fortunes and feels that the problems besetting the State call for a major rallying to its support. "Zmanim" (Progressive) also views the future with optimism and finds that the State's achievements adequately balance the negative factors, in the continued existence, development and ultimate success of our State.

"Hamodia" (World Aguda) is the only paper to link up the New Year with direct political considerations, regretting that Knesset's prejudice have not permitted it to meet the Aguda claims even half way and that the latter has been pushed into the Opposition. The decision whether the coming Government will be all-Labour depends upon Mirzali and "Hamodia" hopes that this party will rise to the occasion in its defence of Jewish religious rights.

"Haboker" (General Zionist) feels that some Jews, and some of us among them, have still not been able to realize that the age-long dream of a Jewish State has materialized and it prays that the coming year will see a breaking down of the artificial partition separating us from the Jews abroad.

"Al Hamishmar" (Mayan) says that on the threshold of the new year we must rededicate ourselves to a renewed supreme national effort for continued construction, increased immigration and absorption, and the wiping out of poverty. To realize these aims, the paper concludes, we need a strong and effective government, led by those who can carry the burden: the pioneer labour parties.

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The Yearbook also contains an up-to-date list of the members of the Third Knesset and its committees, members of the diplomatic corps abroad and members of the diplomatic corps and consulates in Israel, treaties and agreements with foreign countries, lists of judges, the senior officers of the Israel Defense Forces, the leaders of the Knesset, Organization and the Jewish Agency, members of the chief rabbinate, heads of the communities, as well as senior officials in the government offices.

Among the information published in the Yearbook are an anthology of the Laws of Israel, the names of the new settlements and their definitions, a bibliography of all the Hebrew books published during the year, an index and advertisements.

The Yearbook is an informative reference book. It is valuable for all who want to know of the country's current affairs. It contains 480 double column pages, sized 17 x 25 cm.

It can be obtained at all bookshops and newsstands in the country.

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